



# Coalition for A Safe & Healthy CT

645 Farmington Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Hartford, CT 860-232-6232

## **Please support HB 5126:**

### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE***

The Coalition for a Safe & Healthy CT is working to establish a **Chemical Innovations Institute** to foster green job growth, promote safe workplaces, and reduce the use of toxic chemicals that are increasingly linked to the rising incidence of numerous chronic diseases.

With increasingly stringent chemical regulations being implemented in other countries, a Chemical Innovations Institute is an **economic development opportunity** that can help **make Connecticut a leader** on green chemistry innovation and clean technologies.



([www.dtsc.ca.gov/](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/))

Once adequate resources are identified, the Institute would work with the business community to identify a key area of chemical usage on which to focus. Connecticut can **complement work being done in our neighboring states**, such as Massachusetts, which is focusing on cleaning chemicals.

Along with the Interstate Clearinghouse, a Chemical Innovations Institute would give Connecticut access to **cutting-edge safer alternatives information** from other states and around the world, helping to grow a **safer and stronger state economy**.

#### **Why do we need a Chemical Innovations Institute?**

- Keeping businesses up-to-date on international and national chemical policy changes will help with compliance and with ensuring access to international markets for Connecticut-manufactured products.
- Training businesses in evaluating chemicals for safer alternatives can help businesses market products as green and avoid public embarrassment from having toxics in consumer products.
- Increased use of safer alternatives protects workers, consumers, and the environment.

Substituting safer alternatives for toxins can also **help businesses save money** through reduced worker compensation, OSHA compliance costs, and hazardous waste disposal fees.

**House Bill 5126** would establish the mission and Board of Directors of the Institute, enabling fund raising and fee-for-service activities **without requiring the State to put forth any money**.

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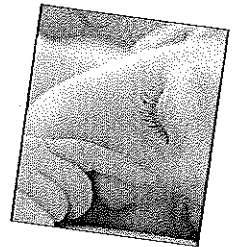


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## Please support the Child Safe Products Act: HB 5130

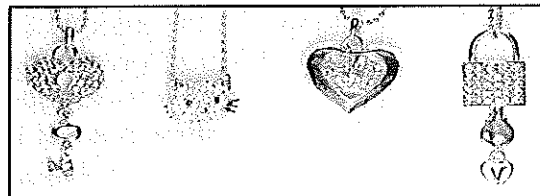
Exposure to even small amounts of a toxic chemical can impact a child's ability to reach his or her full potential. **The Child Safe Products Act would help protect children from the chemicals of highest concern in toys and other products designed for their use.**



- DEP, in consultation with the DPH, would add at least a few chemicals of high concern to a **Priority Chemicals of Concern list** through regulations
  - The Department could consult with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse, which holds well-vetted priority chemical lists from Maine, Washington, and other state and federal governments that could be used
- Chemicals of high concern added to the list would be phased out three years
- DEP, in consultation with DPH, would annually review the Priority Chemicals of Concern list and determine whether chemicals should be added or removed

**Maine and Washington** are already blazing the trail toward safer children's products by implementing similar laws and sharing their priority chemical lists with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse.

**Connecticut can borrow from this research and move forward without burdening our state agencies.**



*Pictured above: recalled children's jewelry. Inadequate federal standards for cadmium and other toxins leave parents wondering whether products are safe.*

The Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut is a growing partnership of organizations and individuals working together to reduce toxic chemicals that threaten human health and the environment.

**Members include:** Administrative and Residual Employees Union # 4200 (A & R 4200) \* Arc of CT \* Bridgeport East End Community Council \* Central CT Labor Council \* Citizens Campaign for the Environment \* Clean Water Action \* Community Health Network of CT \* CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) \* CT Association of Public Health Nurses (CAPHN) \* CT Association of School Nurses \* CT Chapter,

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO-CT) \* CT Citizen Action Group \* CT Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ) \* CT Council on Occupational Safety & Healthy \* CT Employees Union Independent \* CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools \* CT NOFA \* CT Nurses Association (CNA) \* CT Parish Nurses \* CT Planned Parenthood \* ConnPIRG \* CT Public Health Association (CPHA) \* CT State African-American Affairs Commission \* CT State Council of Machinists \* Conversations for a Green CT \* Council 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) \* Ecological Health Organization (ECHO) \* Environment Connecticut \* Environmental Health Group of the Yale School of Medicine \* Fairfield County Environmental Justice Network \* Families for Conscious Living \* Farmington River Watershed Association \* Greater Hartford Central Labor Council \* Greening Our Children \* Hartford Asthma Call-to-Action \* Interreligious Eco-Justice Network \* Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition \* Muhammad Islamic Center's Health Awareness Advisory Council \* New Haven Environmental Justice Network \* North Hartford Seniors In Action \* Norwalk Federation of Teachers \* Planned Parenthood of CT \* SEIU 32BJ \* Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter \* Southeastern CT Central Labor Council \* Teamsters 559 \* Toxics Action Center \* The Watershed Partnership \* Yale Student Environmental Coalition \*